

Message Text

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SUBJ: WCIWY: STATEMENT BY PATRICIA HUTAR HEAD, U.S. DELEGATION
TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S YEAR.
PRESS-BRIEFING.

1. BEGIN QUOTE: GOOD MORNING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

2. YESTERDAY, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION SUBMITTED FOUR
RESOLUTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE RELATING TO EDUCATION, SELF-
HELP, EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THE
ONE WE ARE HIGHLIGHTING TODAY AT THIS PRESS BRIEFING ---
WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT.

2. THE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO DEVELOPMENT CAN HARDLY BE
OVERCOME WITHOUT THE FULL
PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN. THIS
WAS A MESSAGE THAT WAS EXPRESSED BY THE THIRD WORLD-
WOMEN WHO PARTICIPATED IN A PANEL MODERATED BY SENATOR
CHARLES PERCY ON MONDAY AT THE TRIBUNE. MOST OF
THE UNITED NATIONS SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE GOALS ARE
RELATED TO ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO WOMEN:

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NUTRITION, HEALTH, POPULATION, EDUCATION, HIGH PRODUCTION

LEVELS, AND AMORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME
AND WEALTH.

3. FROM MY EXPERIENCE AS THE UNITED STATES DELEGATE TO A WOMAN IN DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE HELD IN AFRICA, I FOUND THAT THE TASKS THAT RURAL WOMEN ARE EXPECTED TO PERFORM ARE: A) TO ELIMINATE MALNUTRITION FROM HER FAMILY, THROUGH INCREASING THE OUTPUT AND DIVERSIFICATION OF FOOD CROPS ON THE FARM, AND TO IMPROVE THE VALUE OF FOOD ON THE FAMILY TABLE. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES, LOANS AND MARKETING ASISTANCE DO NOT REACH HER. AS YOU MAY KNOW, AFRICAN WOMEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 60-80 PER CENT OF THE AGRICULTURE WORK. B) TO SUPPLY THE FAMILY FUEL AND WATER AS WELL AS CONVEY FARM PRODUCE TO MARKET. THERE ARE FEW PORTERAGE DEVICES TO HELP HER OR PROGRAMMES TO BRING WATER AND FUEL WITHIN HER REACH. C) TO STORE AND PROCESS FOOD FOR HUNGRY SEASONS BECOUSE OF LACK OF KNOWLEDGE, HER METHODS OFTEN REMAIN PRIMITIVE. D) TO TAKE COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELFARE OF HER FAMILY, AND FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FARM AS WELL, IN CASES WHERE HER HUSBAND IS ABSENT OR DEAD SHE HAS LITTLE OR NO TRAINING FOR THIS TASK.

4. THE UNITED STATES IS NOW PUTTING INTO ACTION THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE THROUGH OUR OWN BILATERAL ASSISTANCE GRAMS. WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT OUR EFFORTS ARE ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE WORLD-WIDE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. THIS EFFORT MUST BE EMBRACED BY THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE. THUS, THE US DELEGATION INTRODUCED A WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR: 1) THE INCORPORATION OF CRITERIA TO ASSURE THAT PROJECTS WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON WOMEN, 2) SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PROGRAMS TO ASSURE THAT WOMEN WILL GET AN EQUAL PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, 3) EVALUATION TO ASSURE THAT INTENDED RESULTS ARE REALIZED, AND 4) RESEARCH TO HELP US UNDERSTAND WHAT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE PROGRAMS WORK FOR WOMEN.

5. THIS RESOLUTION SETS FORTH MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT. MANAGEMENT TOOLS
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BY THEMSELVES ARE NOT ENOUGH. IN THE END, IT IS THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE A PROGRAM GO. THEREFORE, THE LAST PART OF OUR RESOLUTION CALLS UPON ALL ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO EMPLOY WOMEN IN THE DECISION - MAKING POSITIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

6. THE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION IS A COMMON BOND BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING NATIONS.

7. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CONCEPTS EMBODIED IN THIS RESOLUTION
TRANSCEND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES AND WILL
ENSURE THE FULL PARTICIPATION BY WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT. END
QUOTE.

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